



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Dragon Families,

Welcome back to footy for Season 2023.

It certainly takes a lot to get a season of football underway and this year has been no different, if not a little more challenging with changeover from GameDay to PlayHQ. I'd like to thank all of the Committee for their hard work during the pre-season, to see the season get underway last weekend. They have all done an amazing job.

We started the season with a bang at Grub at the Club and the U16 boys delivered! What a fantastic spread put on by Steph Cash, the team of parents and the boys for serving up. We had a huge turnout.

A big thanks to Life Member, Jim Hall for once again presenting the ANZAC Medals to our recipients. Congratulations to all the girls and boys. We'll have to wait until the next Grub on 7 May, to find out the U16 Girls recipient as they started the season with a bye.

It was great to see so many Dragons Hoodies at the Oakleigh ANZAC Day Dawn Service on Tuesday morning, where I was joined by James Scott (U9 Green) and Rhys Scott (U13 Yellow) to lay the wreath. Well done boys, thanks for helping out and keeping up the tradition.

In order to assist all our wonderful Team Managers, we require at least one parent/guardian to hold a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC). All game day roles that are allocated by our Team Managers require a valid WWCC and all member families are required to assist in game day roles throughout the season. If you have not done so already, please apply for your free (for Volunteer Roles only) WWCC. Applications can be made on-line via:

www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

Please note there are no WWCC exemptions for Police or VIT in line with SMJFL policies.

I hope you are all looking forward to Round 2. Have a fun and safe week.

I'll see you all at Grub on 7 May to be hosted by the combined Under 9's Teams.

Brodie Phillips
President

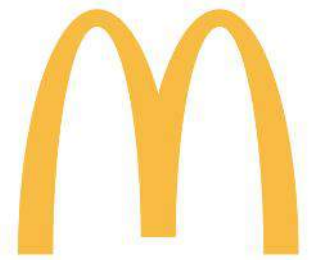
2022 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Brodie Phillips
Vice President: David Cash
Secretary: Caz Hayes
Treasurer: Volker Heinze
Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Kathy McGeoch
Property Officer: Chris Goodman
Canteen Manager: Vacant
Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
Social Media: Vacant

Football Operations Manager: David Cash
Team Manager Coordinator: Jude Foster
First Aid Coordinator: Lindsey Armatas
Child Safety Officers: Sonya Moreland / Andrew Allan
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Youth): John McLaughlin
Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Tim Moreland
Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
Incident Coordinator: Sonya Moreland
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:
Annelise Scott
Justin Scott
Sonya Moreland

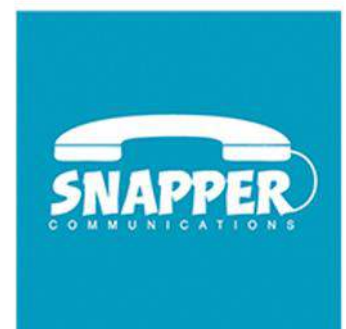
2023 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
CHADSTONE**



woodards 



CONTACT DETAILS Brodie Phillips Ph: 0499 999 863 secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com www.oakleighdragons.org.au

FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



ANZAC PRESENTATION

A huge thank you to Life Member Jim Hall who presented the ANZAC Day medals to our deserving winners. It was an honour to have Jim present the awards in his SAS beret.

Jim spent many years on the Dragons Committee and continued as our Bar Manager even after his boys Benjamin and Jackson had finished their junior football years at the Dragons.

Congratulations to our ANZAC medal winners for demonstrating the ANZAC spirit - qualities of skill, courage in adversity, teamwork and fair play.

U9 Mixed Green - Luke Benoiton
U9 Mixed Yellow - Boyd Littlejohn
U10 Mixed Green - Henry Reljich
U10 Mixed Yellow - Darwell Begue
U11 Mixed - Finn Thomson

U12 Girls - Skye Schurr
U13 Mixed Green - Heath McEwen-Reynolds
U13 Mixed Yellow - Darcy Moreland
U14 Girls - Lucia Shaw

U14 Mixed - Mitchell Phillips
U16 Boys - Ethan Cash
U 17 Boys - Aden Lewis
U18 Girls - Freya Olsen





MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Caleb Miszalski, U13 Yellow Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

Tyrone Interrigi, U16 Boys

100 GAMES



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like in the next Acorn,
please email them with a description to Kathy at complianceOYCFc@gmail.com





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

Game one under the belt for the boys and it was a really brave start. Undermanned from the get go, our boys had a slow start but dominated the last three quarters.

With the vast majority of our team playing their first game of footy, it was awesome to see them not get overawed by the physical nature of the contest.

Hard to pick standouts but Francesco and Luke showed real leadership in the midfield all day and were catalysts to us getting back in the game.

Congratulations to Luke Benoiton for being awarded the ANZAC medal.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

After a strong 10 weeks of preseason training the U9 Mixed Yellow team stated the season off with an away game against South Melbourne Districts with most of our boys playing their first official game.

We came up against a seasoned team which made the first half particularly challenging for our boys. As the game wore on though, I was really impressed by the determination shown to fight back in the second half with majority of the third quarter being played in our forward half with Zach kicking an unbelievable team lifting goal.

Most importantly everyone enjoyed themselves and had a smile on their faces at the end. I was extremely proud of the kids particularly all playing their first official game but a special mention to Thien who captained the team brilliantly and to Boyd who was awarded the ANZAC Medal. Well done to Oliver, Max, Bohdi and Koby for their competitive attack on the ball all game.

Well done boys on a super effort today, a great learning experience for us all. Go Dragons!!





U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

The Under 10 green team played in perfect conditions at home against Prahran. We played with 16 players for most of the game and it gave us the opportunity to put players in different positions. Prahran was a skilful team and even though we lost the game, the commitment and endeavour from the team was great to see.

Special mention to the new recruits Deon, Rishabh, Archer, Maison, Anastasios, Ben and Max Baldock.

The ANZAC medal was awarded to Henry for playing well in different positions where he set up many passages of play. Congratulations Henry!

Well done to Kai, Archer, Thomas E, James and Ben on having great games. Well done everyone on a super effort, if we continue to train well, we will improve quickly and our results will turn around before you know it.

U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

The under 10 yellow team commenced the season in style with a victory at Scammell over St Bedes, Mentone.

We started the game strongly with Darwell and James dominating the centre clearances resulting in first quarter goals to Charlie, Wyatt and Bronx.

Throughout the game we moved the magnets around with Kian showing great forward pressure, Thomas spreading and getting a lot of the ball on the wing and Noah showing really good positioning to kick two goals. Our defensive pressure and strong teamwork resulted in us winning by 35 points.

A big welcome to Emily and Josh who both played great games in their first match for the Dragons.

The ANZAC medal was awarded to Darwell who dominated the centre, picked up over 25 possessions and regularly took intercept marks. Most importantly Darwell continuously looked to bring his teammates into the game. Great game Darwell!

Dragons 7.6.48
St Bede's 2.1.13

Captains: Bronx and Darwell
Goals: Noah 2, Bronx 2, Wyatt, Blake and Charlie

Finally a big thank you to Daniela our team manager and to the committee for all the hard work over the summer, it has been greatly appreciated. A special mention to David Cash who has been a valuable conduit between the team and the league.



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We faced Bentleigh at their home ground for our Round 1 match and ended up going down by several goals. The boys tried hard but were outclassed across the field by a very well organised and skilful unit.

We had 6 new players pulling on the Dragons jumper for the 1st time in an official capacity in Round 1 in Alex, Finley, Leo, Jay, Cam and William, and to the boys' credit, they gave their all.

We nominated Jay and William as co-captains for the week due to the effort and energy they brought at training and in the practice match the week before and they delivered again.

Alex was particularly impressive with his strong contests in the back line where the ball spent most of the day. He was well assisted by, and special mention must go to, Harrison Neophytou for his intercept marking which helped stem the tide at times.

Whilst well beaten, we did control the ball for periods of time but struggled to convert. We also had some great highlights with running goals, brave overhead marks, strong tackling and smothering and saw glimpses of link-up handball chains, but it wasn't our day.

The boys still need to gel and get comfortable working together as a team and that'll come in time as we continue to work on it. All the boys battled on, though Ambrose, Masaki and Matty put in very solid performances so it was a close call but in the end, Finn Thomson was our ANZAC Medallist after a strong 4 quarter showing.

Looking forward to seeing our team grow and improve throughout the season. Bring on Round 2!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

WOW!! What a match to start the season. The girls were ferocious, enthusiastic and courageous.

We played the Port Melbourne Colts away and only having 12 on the field and 1 impact player on the bench, the big oval meant lots of running and many exhausted girls by half time.

The first quarter was all ours, it was played in our forward 50 but we couldn't capitalise on our efforts and even though we kept the Colts scoreless we couldn't buy a goal and only managed a couple of behinds.

Similar story in the second however the limited times the Port made it into their forward line they scored and we were down 2-0-12 to 0-2-2 at half time. Unfortunately the second half got away from us and the Colts ran out winners 5-4-34 to 0-0-3 even though we created numerous goal scoring chances.

We were tackling beasts today! Three times our forwards chased hard to run down and tackle resulting in shots at goal (even one after the siren), our defenders saved a handful of attacks with run down tackles too. Our midfield did a power of work up and back, willing themselves to the next contest and fighting hard.

The girls' efforts were brilliant today, super proud of everyone with special mentions to (in no particular order) Ruby, Bonnie, Miette, Skye and Stella.



U13 MIXED GREEN DAVID CASH

Welcome to Oakleigh Dragons Season 2023 to all players and parents, new and returning, let's have a great year of football and fun.

This season we started with round one aligning to the ANZAC round, after what can only be described as one of the toughest preseasons I have ever been involved with. However we got our team together and on the field for Round 1, a home game playing Caulfield Bears.

What a great bunch of players we have in our team, managing two on our bench rotations was front of mind and having not seen a lot of football from some of the players it was great to see all the different skills and football knowledge they all brought individually. Many of the players hadn't played together before and the boys took a while to find their groove, but they worked tirelessly all match.

The Scoreboard was not a great indicator of the way the game was played, our boys had plenty of the ball but were not able to capitalise on some of their great work early on, they kept at it and kept their head up. In the last quarter, I challenged the players to win the last quarter, and it seemed like everything came together, we moved the ball forward out of the centre several times and held it in our forward half until we scored. The boys left the ground at the end of the game on a high, knowing they can compete at this level of football.

Congratulations to Caleb on 50 games, a great milestone, well done.
Congratulation to Heath our ANZAC Day Medallist, and to all this year's ANZAC Day Medallists.

Lastly, let's take the focus and level we displayed in the last quarter into this coming week's game and have a great day of football.

U13 MIXED YELLOW TIM MORELAND

Early start for us on ANZAC round where we headed to Caulfield South and took on AJAX in our Div 2 clash. New team adjustments this year so it was interesting to see how we fared whilst still gelling as a unit.

Near perfect conditions greeted us so there were no excuses in that sense. It was an interesting game with ebbs and flows for the first three quarters but with some really good team play along the way. Our backs were solid with Aiden, Paul and Oscar building their game and stopping opposition attacks. Charlie saved a goal with a strong mark deep back whilst I thought James had a good consistent game wearing opponents like a glove.

Curtis used some slick handballs forward and back whilst Cam, Troy, Archie and Darcy R never stopped hustling. Harrison fought hard across the forward line whilst Liam learnt quickly when in possession of the ball to slip quick hands out to running players which resulting in a goal.

Kaeleb imposed himself on the game both in the ruck and forward and his torpedo goal from the boundary line a highlight. I reckon he'll influence a lot of games this season. Will H got better and better as the game went on and he's another we'll see plenty of this year in multiple positions. Cooper's run across the ground is well known and he's always looking at feeding team mates. Tommy and Andrew certainly had a lot of the ball so now we look forward to some consistency from game to game.

After an arm wrestle for three quarters we asked for an increase in effort/intensity going into the last and it's exactly what we got across the whole team. This resulted in a welcome 58 - 33 win for the lads. Tyler was fantastic going from contest to contest which resulted in us playing the ball in our half of the ground. Harland was used forward, back and in the ruck and was also involved in many forward attacks. It was an even game from the boys today however we thought



Darcy M had consistent influence of the game with his marking, run and chase down tackles, a couple of which went unrewarded. His efforts today were rewarded by receiving the ANZAC medal for the game.

Great start to the season but plenty to work with - so we look forward to seeing everyone at training this week where we start to improve week by week. Many thanks to all families/helpers/volunteers and hope you enjoyed the first game of the year. Look forward to next week at home.

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Today we played South Melbourne District at Albert Park. Conditions were perfect for our first game. We had our full squad of 21 girls available with a handful who had never played a game before. Our message from day one was to have fun and we believe they did that today.

Whilst playing against a bigger and stronger side, our girls applied themselves to the task and even managed to level the score with a goal through Sienna in the first quarter.

Our theme this month is to work as a team, on and off the field, and our girls absolutely excelled at this. Led by our strong captain Misaki, our team supported each other really well. Their will and endeavour was never questioned, with many putting their head over the ball and our recent tackling clinic definitely paying off.

As the scoreboard slowly slipped away from us, our focus remained on some team aspects that we spoke about during the breaks, in particular picking up their loose players. We are all on a huge learning curve, players and debutant coaches, but this will improve greatly as the season goes on.

Special mentions: Milly B, your confidence grew as the game went on and battled strongly in the backline. Tash, the quiet achiever, ran all day and gathered the ball consistently. Izzy, you laid some great tackles today and are really starting to believe in yourself. Lucia, one of the handful of first gamers, definitely played like it wasn't her first game. She got plenty of the ball, broke tackle after tackle, showed courage with or without the ball in hand and tried her heart out in the three different positions we played her in. This is why she is the deserved winner of the ANZAC day medal.

Goals: Sienna 1

U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER



The U14's Mixed team played an away game against the Waverley Hawks in Round 1. The Hawks didn't have a full team and the result was a rather one sided game. Our midfield were on top from the first bounce. Jack, Campbell, Nathan and Josh worked brilliantly together to give our forwards plenty of opportunities to score, and after an initial period of kicking points, we started to hit the target.

Pleasingly, much of what we have been working on in pre-season was evident in the way we played. Chains of handball, accurate field kicking and strong defensive efforts were on show across the ground. Many of those efforts ended in the hands of Ari McLeod who ended the game with 9.7. The Anzac Medal could have been awarded to a number of our players but it was Mitchell who best displayed the qualities that are central to the ANZAC spirit.

Looking forward to seeing further development in the team in future weeks as we play stronger opposition.



U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

This week the U16 girls had a Bye, their ANZAC medal will be awarded next week.

U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

Round 1 saw the recently promoted Oakleigh Dragons come up against Bentleigh in the first match of 2023. With Oakleigh recently winning the second division title and earning promotion, the Dragons were keen to observe the pace of division 1. Bentleigh have acquired some new talent in the offseason and are looking like serious contenders for the division 1 title.

Whilst the Dragons were keen to start the season off with a bang, Bentleigh had come to play by piling on the first 5 goals of the day to start in blistering fashion.

What proved to be a tough day in the office provided an excellent opportunity for the Dragon's team to learn from a strong Bentleigh side. Although Bentleigh controlled much of the game, the Dragons were still able to match it with Bentleigh in general play up the ground; just unable to capitalize on opportunity.

Oakleigh had several highlights throughout the day with forward Ryan Granig kicking 2 goals in a minute (3 for the quarter) in the third term and defenders forced to contend with a strong Bentleigh forward line proving flare and excitement coming out of the backline. The ANZAC medal was taken home by Ethan Cash after a stellar performance out of the backline complimented with run and carry and line breaking kicking.

Whilst bitterly disappointed in the result, the Dragons will take a lot out of their first game for season 2023.

Goal Kickers

R. Granig 3

B. Moreland 1

Dragons:	0.1	2.1	4.2	4.4	28
Bentleigh:	5.3	10.6	16.12	19.12	131

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Opponent: St Peters Home Game Result: Oakleigh Dragons won by 107 points

The Football Gods were smiling on us, with a beautiful Autumn Day and Scammell Reserve was in great condition for the first game of the 2023 season. We have had some great matches with St Peters over the years and the players were raring to go after a big preseason. This is the first of 4 grading matches, so we were uncertain what to expect.

Firstly, congratulations to "Specky" Bernardo who has been appointed captain for the year - with Jacko L, Oscar and Jimmy Mac vice captains, and Tommy, Aden, and Joey also in the leadership group. We are extremely lucky to attract some new players - Lachie, Xavier Luca, Jezza and Seth (playing in a few weeks' time) who are all going to be great assets to the team, we welcome them and their families, with open arms. We also have Pete and Stevie returning to "their club", and we say welcome home both families.

The first quarter, with the Dragons kicking towards the North Rd end and we worked hard but we were inaccurate in front of the big sticks kicking 3 goals 8 to no score. We started to play the attacking style we have been training for. We moved the ball well in parts (fluid football as JJ has described it) and looked good when we ran hard. There were many



options going forward and the guys seemed to enjoy themselves playing the game they love. We ran away comfortable winners. Our opponents never gave up which was a credit to them, they had lost some players to other clubs over the break.

Special mentions from the game:

- The form of all the new players was a real bonus. The X Factor was very good with plenty of run from down back, he kicked a lovely, long goal at one point. Pete and Stevie both worked extremely hard in the midfield with good games. Jezza was eye catching down back with some fantastic rebounding play. Luca and Lachie N both showed great pace and attack on the ball, a very pleasing debut by them all - well done.
- Our B and F from last year, Oscar, carried on from where he left off with a fantastic display. His balance and speed at which he attacks the ball was first rate. The ANZAC Day medallist: Aden again was difficult to pass down back, he also went forward and kicked his first goal for a few seasons.
- A terrific game by Sammy I who had an interesting preseason with a couple weeks in India playing cricket. Lachie Mac had a beauty with lots of run and linking, he kicked a couple of goals. JD kicked a couple of long goals that got the crowd cheering. Billy and Tommy both kicked 4 goals each as our key forwards.
- The leadership group all played well, great to have Jacko back on the wing running and bouncing, Specky's attack on the ball is fantastic. The most pleasing thing was the increased communication and the team play. There will be many challenges to come in the weeks ahead – be ready guys!

See all the boys at training this week. Well done on your first efforts.

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

We had a tough assignment for round 1 playing Mordi-Brae down in Parkdale who were last years' division 1 premiers.

We welcomed 6 new players to the Oakleigh Dragons – Lily Firth, Olivia Jackson, Ella Zauch, Matisse Sullivan, Tayla Halvy and Lily Greaves (pictured). For Lily Firth and Ella it was their first "real" game of footy.



The girls all wore black armbands in memory of Steve Neophytou, Taylor's dad, who sadly passed away recently.

A big thanks to Sienna, Fiona, Nicole and Gracie from the U16s for filling in today to help boost our numbers.

The team tried really hard all day and their effort couldn't be questioned. The tackling was great and we kept them goalless for long patches in the game. Our work in the centre was fantastic with Daisy, Freya and Giselle getting plenty of the football. Gecko was solid in defence and repelled the ball on many occasions.



Our kick outs have been a focus at training and were done really well throughout the day – no costly turnovers! Sienna kept running all day and Lily F threw her body in and got better as the game went on. Cheotso copped a big bump on her forehead and Gracie injured her leg – the results of putting their bodies on the line.

The recipient of the ANZAC day medal was Freya. She had her head over the ball all day, tackled everyone in sight and was on the bottom of every pack.



SMOKE-FREE

By law, smoking is banned within 10 metres (about two car lengths) of any public outdoor sporting venue during an organised under-18s event.

The ban includes training or practice sessions to prepare for an organised under-age sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Don't forget to follow us on social media for all the latest news

Facebook: Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club

Instagram: @oakleigh_dragonsjfc

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

A reminder that all players are expected to have one parent/guardian contributing to game day roles. To fill these roles, parents/guardians must hold a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC) and be registered with Play HQ as a volunteer. Remember if these game day roles are not filled our kids can't take to the field!

If you haven't already done so, apply for a free WWCC (volunteer roles only) at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au
Then provide your WWCC details when you register as a volunteer with PlayHQ at www.playhq.com/



GRUB AT THE CLUB SCHEDULE

Subject to change during the season depending on game times, your Team Manager will keep you posted.

Don't forget – Grub's Gone Green! BYO plates and cutlery.

Date	U8 & U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays	Grub at the Club
23-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U16 Boys
30-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		
7-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		U9 Mixed
14-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
21-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		
28-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		
4-Jun	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		U10 & U11 Mixed
11-Jun	No Games / Interleague Carnival				King's Birthday	
18-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U12 & U14 Girls
25-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	School Holidays	
2-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
9-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
16-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U16 & U18 Girls
23-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
30-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Mixed
6-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
13-Aug	Lightning Carnival					U13 Mixed
20-Aug		Lightning Carnival				U18 Boys
27-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
3-Sep			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Father's Day	
10-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC	PRESENTATION DAY (School holidays commence 16/09)					

